

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 1, Folder 20

April 26, 1945 -
May 19, 1945

Frame: 0656 - 657

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

26 April 1945.

Dear Vice Admiral "Sec",

This is a letter to let you know how much I appreciate the thoughtfulness that you, Admiral Nimitz, and others had in ordering me to my new assignment in Command of Motor Torpedo Boats. I know that I shall enjoy this assignment very much indeed, not only because it is a relatively new field, but also, because it keeps me in the combat area in what can be an important combat assignment.

Needless to say, I have thoroughly enjoyed my duty here as Chief of Staff to Commander Battleship Squadron One, and, in many ways, I regret leaving, because Battleship Squadron One always gets into the combat area first. It is this squadron's job to clear the way, and this it has done in the past and will do in the future. However, the job is no longer as interesting or as important as it has been. Heretofore, Commander Battleship Squadron One has commanded all pre-Dog day bombardments and everything connected therewith; whereas now, he merely supplies fire support ships to the amphibious commanders and awaits enemy action, hoping, at the same time, that if action is imminent the amphibious commander will give him everything possible.

In the Philippines operation, Vice Admiral Oldendorf commanded the under-water teams, the mine sweepers, and, to a degree, the escort carriers. Admiral Turner, in this regard, functions quite differently from Admiral Kinkaid, for he retains all power within the Amphibious Command and seldom delegates any to anyone not an amphibious commander. So you can see that with the chance of surface action heavily reduced, Battleship Squadron One assumes, in a sense, the functions of a Service Force for fire support ships.

I feel that the heyday of the Bombardment and Fire support group is over. It has plenty to do not the least of which is combating enemy aircraft. This is a most difficult assignment, and in many cases today, our ships have succeeded admirably in this regard.

I am awfully glad that I succeeded in getting in on this operation. I am also glad that Admiral Spruance and Admiral Dye came over on the hospital ship and suggested that I return if I could, because that gave me a lever on the doctors, who had announced that I would not be transferred until well. So, when the doctors saw the pressure from High Command and saw how anxious I was to go, even though pretty badly crippled, the Medical Staff on the hospital ship agreed that, "if I would ask to go of my own volition," they would transfer me "on the sick list," which they did. So, I got over here and was glad to

0658

get here, especially as I felt that I had something to contribute. Admiral Deyo has repeatedly told me how glad he was that I came, and his staff have been very expressive of the same thing. I feel, therefore, that I have accomplished something.

I shall always note with interest the nature of these operations. I had a long talk with General McArthur the day before I left the Philippines and as he discussed this present operation himself with me, I find myself with a particular interest in it ever and above that which anyone in any operation naturally has. When I return to Guam I will tell you what he said, but I don't want to do it here. I must say, for all of the Fleet, that the work you are doing has been so remarkably successful that it seems almost incredible. I can well see why Admiral Nimitz retained you as Chief of Staff, and I think that the combination of Nimitz and McMorris, is slated for a place in history, like Napoleon and Berthier, although this is not really apt, because Berthier was not the genius you are, nor was he, in the end, fully loyal. However, it was a famous combination.

With deepest appreciation and warmest regards to you, the Admiral, and to your immediate staff including Sherman and Carter, and with a promise of best effort in the new assignment, I am as ever,

Your old J.O.,

R. W. BATES.

Vice Admiral Charles H. McMorris,
Staff, Commander in Chief,
U. S. Pacific Fleet,
Advance Headquarters,
Navy #926 (NINE TWO SIX).

0659

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

26 April 1945.

Dear Admiral Turner,

This note is to express to you my appreciation of your extreme courtesy in giving me an hour or more of your time this morning. When I came over there, it was my impression that you knew that I was going to command the PT boats in the Pacific, because the despatch ordering my detachment had been received since we arrived in this area. However, after you had stated otherwise, I felt that perhaps I was imposing on you somewhat.

It was nice of you to tell me what you thought about my new command. Your attitude towards the PT boats is highly interesting and instructive, because it is founded on actual experience, but it was disappointing to me to hear that you had such strong objections to them, in so far as your own needs are concerned. You must have found them to be quite a thorn in your side during the early Guadalcanal days! It appears to me that one of my basic tasks is to resell them to Commander Amphibious Forces Pacific!

It is a great pleasure to me to be serving again with you in another operation, as all of your operations have a distinct flair about them. My first amphibious operation under you was at Makin Island during the Gilberts Campaign. My next was at Kwajalein, but the Marianas passed me by as, at that time, I was on Admiral Nimitz's staff at Pearl having been detached from the Minneapolis to rewrite USF LOA.

Last September I joined Admiral Oldendorf as Chief of Staff and went through the Leyte and Lingayen phases of the Philippines Campaign, including Surigao. All of this was intensely interesting; partially because it was very successful.

Now, the "wheel of fate" has turned again and I am back once more with the Old Master. It is, therefore, with deep interest that I review your methods with those we used in the Philippines. There is no doubt but that your methods are quite different from those we used down there, but the problem you face is usually much more difficult, at least from a troop viewpoint, and it is always instructive to me to see how you handle each situation. I certainly hope that after this operation, in which you are succeeding so well, your talents will be recognized by the addition of another star on your collar.

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I shall always appreciate your opinion concerning the use of PT boats, and if you have any additional ideas along that line, I should be grateful if you would send them to me.

With many thanks again for your courtesy and advice, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Vice Admiral R. K. Turner,
Commander Amphibious Forces,
U. S. Pacific Fleet.

0661

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

29 April 1945.

Dear Dick,

Yesterday I received a letter from you dated February 27th from the Dutch East Indies, so that it is my guess that you are at Morotai. If you are, I hope that you are enjoying yourself there and that you are not finding it too wet. When I was home in February, your father read me something that you had written in which you talked about "and up to the top of your boots", and persistent rain. You mustn't be surprised at that, because that is the Tropics, and Morotai is somewhere along the Tropical Front, which extends along the Equator and is sometimes called the Equatorial Front.

I am glad that the Army is giving you a chance to learn your business slowly, rather than doing what they did in the early days when they forced young fliers into combat with no training - that is, combat training. While letting you fly over Wewak, and perhaps now over other places, they have given you a chance to get over your stage fright, although I don't imagine that you will ever make a flight over enemy territory without having some qualms.

I hope that you are satisfied with your crew. Your pictures show you to be quite happy, but that was on the way out, and time, and the presence of the enemy, both change those matters, so that sometimes, those one thought good don't measure up. I hope this has not been your experience, because the best teams are those which have worked together as a team for a long time, and this particularly applies in the air, where one weak member of the crew may endanger all.

You may find yourself getting short-tongued and irritable. If you do, I hope that you won't take it out on your friends. The pilot of a plane is like the captain of a ship with a big responsibility. The best captains shoulder their responsibility well and don't allow it to unduly impair them, so that the strain is evident to everyone. There is bound to be strain always. But there must also be relaxation to compensate for the strain. I try here, when I can, to take some exercise, or to read some light tale or something of similar ilk in order to take my mind off the problems at hand. If you will do this yourself, you will probably find that your subconscious mind will think out your problem for you anyway. Some great mathematicians have made their greatest discoveries, they say, while fishing, so perhaps you, being a great mathematician, should be able to solve some of your problems in a similar manner.

0662

I saw your family at home, and your sister and brother, and everything was very pleasant. They all seemed quite happy and very proud of you, so be quite sure that you maintain that pride out there on the battle front. You wouldn't know, from your father's manner, that he had any worry about you at all, and I was quite proud of him. Frankly, I have less worry, I bet, than he has, because I feel confident that you are a fine flier and in addition, with such a fine family and such a fine prospective family, you have a lot to fight for and to return home to. So, I'll see you when this war is over and we will have a big bust together.

I'm still where I was, on my battleship, and I am, right now, up to my neck in a very serious operation. Fortunately, it is going exceptionally well for us, so that it won't be very long before we have the enemy completely in hand.

I am going to have a new job pretty soon which may put me in the Philippines for a while, and if it does, and you are in that area, you had better look me up, because if you don't, I will probably root you in the hind-side when I see you. I suppose your family have told you about my accident so I won't discuss it here, except to say, that I was pretty lucky to have come out as well as I did, and that I am now almost, but not quite, as good as ever.

With best regards to you and with best wishes for the best of luck, I am as ever,

Your affectionate Uncle,

Dick.

Flying Officer Richard J. Bates - T-4021,
69th Bomber Squadron,
APO #159,
c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California.

0663

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

3 May 1945

MEMORANDUM for Admiral DEYO:

1. I received your despatch this morning regarding transfer of those papers concerning the Investigation to you and I am glad to say that the whole works is completed.

2. The latter part of it was done hastily and you will, without a doubt, wish to change it somewhat. What I endeavored to show there was, (1) that CTG 54.2 did not navigate correctly and that even using his own figures he, (a) never knew where he was and, (b) his course as steered was not a safe course.

3. That, by use of the two fixes obtained at the time of the grounding, a suitable estimated position for CTG 54.2's flagship can readily be worked back. The overlay shows a difference between the actual grounding position of the Tolman and the position she might have been in had she been able to continue on over the reef. There is a difference here of less than one thousand yards. This latter position of CTG 54.2 seems to be the correct position within a matter of a thousand yards, perhaps, and this also shows that the group was being definitely steered into dangerous waters.

4. As regards the Commander of the screen, he likewise was not on his toes as his position at 0330 is reasonably correct and, yet, he did nothing about it and allowed the ships to go on the shoal.

5. I hope you agree with the above summation as it was done very quickly after I had returned to the ship and got ~~the~~ shipshape.

6. Thanks for your message about good luck. I wish you and your Staff very much of the same. I must say that I enjoyed my stay here on your Staff and I shall ever be appreciative of your insistence in obtaining me to return to the Tennessee for this Operation.

R. W. BATES.

0664

RWB/hs

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

7 May 1945

Dear Admiral Deyo:

I cannot begin to tell you with what concern we read in the despatches of the difficulties you encountered with your flagship, and more than that, I cannot begin to tell you with what regret I, and all of the others with me, heard of the possibly fatal injury to Lieutenant Page.

We thought a great deal of Lieutenant Page on here. He is an exceptionally nice officer in the fullest sense of the word "nice". In fact, he is almost too kind and thoughtful for his own good.

One would imagine that there were a lot of other people less ready to meet their Maker than your Communication Officer, and, therefore, I know that many people on this ship are wondering why the good Lord saw fit to choose him out of the many for possible entrance into His Kingdom.

I know that the damage to your flagship and the injuries to your Communication Officer have both upset you considerably. I know that the care of personnel is always uppermost in your mind, and I have always admired you for it. Therefore, the casualties which your ship has suffered must hurt you deeply.

I should appreciate your kindness if you could let me have Lieutenant Page's home address, and I shall make it a point to tell his family about him. I do hope that when I hear from you, you will be able to advise me that he is improved in health.

With warmest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral M. L. Deyo, U.S. Navy
Commander Cruiser Division THIRTEEN
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0665

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

RWB/he

11 May 1945

Dear Admiral Bowen,

This is a note of appreciation and, at the same time, of apology. You may wonder why, and I hope you do, but you may remember that you asked me to have luncheon with yourself and Mr. Fred Sells at the Carlton during my stay in Washington, and that I was unable to attend. I know that it was agreed that you would wait until one o'clock and, if I had not arrived by then, you would go ahead without me. As it turned out, I was unable to attend because I was with Admiral Oldendorf making a record of the Battle of Surigao Straits and I was not allowed to open the doors or go to the phone during his discourse. I did not leave this record making room until about two o'clock, so I lost out completely on my luncheon.

I should have written to you long ere this had it not been for the fact that both Admiral Oldendorf and myself were knocked out cold in an accident, when our skimmer hit a buoy in one of the atolls, with the result that we both ended up on a hospital ship. I managed to get off the ship in time to join the fleet for the present operation. I was far from well and only went along to help where I could. Let's hope that I was of some value!

I am awfully sorry about that lunch as it was my only chance to see you and talk to you. As you well know I have always been a supporter of "H.G. Bowen" up to the 100% limit and, during your days as Chief of Bureau, I thoroughly enjoyed serving with you and I liked your originality of thought and your courage to carry through original ideas. There is no doubt but that you have been thoroughly vindicated in this regard in this war, and if anybody deserves three stars for outstanding performance it is one H. G. Bowen.

I also want to thank you for your loyalty to me. You always seemed to support the views which I had towards the security of our Nation and I think that those views have now been proven sound. I must say that I was pretty lucky to have had Charley Ross and J. M. Irish and H. G. Bowen as my bosses during those hectic pre-war days when anyone who talked security was viewed as some strange sort of animal. Do you remember our troubles with the Italians?

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11 May 1945

As you perhaps know, I have been Chief of Staff for Admiral Oldendorf for the past eight months, but I am now detached to be the Commander Motor Torpedo Boats, Pacific, and, I understand, that I have been nominated by the President for Commodore. Needless to say I am highly pleased with my new assignment as it keeps me in the combat area and, as the field is new, I should have a chance to use my brain against the enemy.

Please remember me most kindly to Mrs. Bowen, and please tell Fred Sells that I am truly regretful that I did not see him. Please have him understand that my time was very limited and that I was in Washington for a purpose, not engineering. Once again may I thank you very much for the invitation, which I regret I was unable to accept, and may I say how sorry I am that I did not get a chance to sit down with you and discuss the various situations. With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral H. G. Bowen, USN
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0667

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

11 May 1945

Dear Lay,

I noticed the other day that you had broken into print in either "Time" or "Newsweek" or both and that you had been lucky enough to enter into matrimony with Admiral Nimitz's daughter Catherine.

When I met you and your "soon to be" bride at Pease Powell's party I had an idea that something like that might be in the wind, but I thought that, when you took a look at me and realized that I was still a bachelor, you might have weakened!! However, you were smart and realized, better than I did, that happiness in life is rarely achieved alone. I am saying this not because I am unhappy, which would be far from the truth, but because I thoroughly believe in marriage and I believe also that anyone who can be happy though married is smart to marry.

I thoroughly enjoyed my work with you in the operations in the Philippines and, if I may say so, all of us on Admiral Oldendorf's staff feel that you are very capable and an up-and-coming officer. It's too bad that I, for one, won't be working with you any more.

I wish you all success in the future, not only in the Navy, but in your married life. You certainly married into a hell of a fine family!

With best regards, I am as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander James T. Lay, USN
Commander THIRD Amphibious Force
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0668

RWB/he

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

11 May 1945

Dear Pease:

I note that your boys are all back again with your pencils and pads! I regret very much that I am not there also to assist in planning our portion of the operation which you are working on now. However, as you perhaps know, I am to be detached from this job, presently, and am to take command of Meter Torpedo Boats, Pacific. I am looking forward to this new assignment with intense interest but, at the same time, I have so thoroughly enjoyed my service with BatRon ONE that I view my detachment with sincere regret.

It was a wonderful thing to me, and a wonderful experience in addition, to have been able to work with men of the high caliber of Admiral Wilkinson and his staff and I wish all of them all success in their new ventures, which I know they can well handle.

I must say that Admiral Oldendorf and I thoroughly enjoyed our association with the Third Phibs Force. Everyone was highly cooperative; everyone knew what they were working for; the results achieved indicated harmonious and intelligent planning as well as successful operation. It was swell!!

I hope that some day I shall have a chance to serve with you all again but, until then, all I can say is the old Hawaiian salute "Aloha nui lea", which means, "with deepest affection". Please remember me most kindly to Admiral Wilkinson and to all these members of the staff with whom I have had the good fortune to be associated for a number of vital months.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commodore P. P. Powell, USN
Commander THIRD Amphibious Force
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0669

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

12 May 1945.

Dear Vladimir,

I received a letter from you a couple of days ago, which was dated early in February. This date would seem to indicate that our mail facilities are not too good, but this is not really so, unless the letters are sent "ordinary mail." Had you sent your letter to me via air mail, I should probably have received it within two weeks. I am mentioning this to you now so that in view of my apparant delay in replying you won't feel that your letter to me was unappreciated. On the contrary, I was highly pleased to hear from you and I am merely suggesting, if you write again, to me or to anyone else, that air mail is much the faster method.

It was very nice of you to think of me with regard to the award of the Navy Cross, and I appreciate the fact that you wrote to me about it more than this poor typewriter can tell. I note you say that you learned of the award thru the newspaper. I hope that it was in a Newport newspaper, because I have a very soft feeling for Newport and I feel that there are many there who still think of me in a most friendly way. I, therefore, like very much to have them know what I am doing. As a matter of interest about awards, I have just been notified that I have been awarded a second Legion of Merit for my work in the Philippines campaign. I don't know what the citation says or when I shall receive this award but I am glad that my poor efforts have received some recognition.

As you know, I have been Chief of Staff with Vice Admiral Oldendorf for some time but I am soon to be detached. Exactly what my new address will be I do not as yet know, but it will still be in the Pacific and my rank will be advanced, for the present, to Commodore.

It was awfully nice to hear that Ann and you are quite well and enjoying your life in Newport, even though many of your old friends have left. As we get older we like to cling to our older friends and yet I still feel that the way to keep our youth is to add a few new friends — particul rly younger new friends — as they bring new ideas with them.

I am certainly glad that the European war is now over. What a hell of a war that was and what an enormous number of people died ! No one can say that Europe is better off, now that the war is over, than it was some years before the war. Sometimes wars are helpful to the world because they make nations find their souls and in some ways this was has accomplished this with the British, and perhaps in a lesser degree with the Russians and the Americans. I certainly hope that, as a result of this war and our losses in it, our people will view life with considerably more seriousness and responsibility than they did in the twenties and thirties. We have upwards of ten

0670

and more millions of men under arms, and I cannot but believe that most of them will have learned what our Flag stands for and what it means to be an American. The whole world is looking to us for guidance, and it is my daily prayer that we shall be able to measure up to that requirement.

I was glad to see that President Truman and Winston Churchill did not allow their people to feel that the war in Europe was the end of war. On the contrary both of them advised their people that the war with Japan was in full swing and, until that war was over, the resources and power of their nations would be thrown into it, to ultimate victory. To the fighting men in these combat areas of the Pacific, such words are helpful in maintaining morale. We are fighting a tough war in this area and we like to feel that those at home appreciate that fact. Men don't like to die but they are not unwilling to die when by so doing they feel that they are contributing toward ultimate good. They must feel that what they are doing is so recognized by those at home as well as by their allies. That was why I said that Churchill's statement was well received by the fighting men.

In some ways I envy you your life there in Newport. It is calm and peaceful and altogether charming. Needless to say I liked my stay there very much indeed and I look forward to a return in the not too distant future.

I noted with interest that Admiral Pye had purchased a home there and I know that he will be a most welcome addition to your society. I note, also, that George Ryan and Crawford Hill are back again, out of the service. I think that both of them did the right thing in getting out when they did, as there are plenty of people, much younger, available to fight this war, and certainly George was needed at home. Neither George nor Crawford had to come into the war, but they did so because they had that cosmic urge which forces the best citizens to the defense of their Flag. I hope that everybody in Newport will respect them for the services they rendered their country.

Please remember me most kindly to everyone in Newport that may think of me and as for yourself and Mrs. Behr, the best as always. Many, many thanks for your letter. With warmest regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

R.W. BATES.

Mr. Vladimir Behr,
Bellevue Avenue,
Newport, Rhode Island.

0671

File

13 May 1945

Dear Captain Moses,

Your letter to me was received with great delight and satisfaction and I want you to know that I appreciated highly your thinking of me as you did. You certainly wrote me a very fine letter, not only fine because of the friendliness in it, but fine because you have remembered my history so long. Just think! You remember things I did over thirty years ago. What a tribute that is to me! Thanks very much!

I am glad that you are pleased that I am to be advanced to the rank of Commodore. In many ways it is much better than being a Captain because the Navy now has at least three thousand Captains, whereas, it has less than 100 Commodores. But, as I have said repeatedly, it isn't the rank that I am interested in. It is the defeat of the enemy, and the only advantage that rank has now for me is that it keeps me in the combat area and gives me a chance to use my brains and experience against the enemy. My new assignment is Commander Motor Torpedo Boats, Pacific which is a Type Commander, as well as an Operating Commander. It should be a lot of fun and can be highly important depending, of course, on the nature of the operations as they develop. It reminds me of you and the twelve sub-chasers that you handled while in the Cincinnati. What a pain in the neck they were!

You inferred, in your letter to me, that Commodore was only for the duration. This is not quite so. Rear Admiral is for the duration, but Commodore is a spot appointment for a spot job. So, if and when I am relieved from the duty in the PT boats, I will then be ordered to revert to my Captain's rank unless, through some strange quirk, I am advanced to Rear Admiral. This latter I do not expect. I did expect it once because, on pre-war performance and on performance during this war, I felt that I was entitled to it. But, pre-war performance does not mean anything, nor does war performance mean anything, as most Admirals seem to have been made from shore duty. Also officers who have served on shore duty throughout the war are now being made Rear Admirals while those of us who are fighting the war are receiving little if any recognition. I didn't care about this particularly, so long as it helped win the war, but I cannot but feel that it is not helpful in that regard, and, that therefore, it may cost lives in the end. My attitude towards that is - that any life that is lost without just cause is a scandal.

I think the thing that has held me back from being a Rear Admiral and is holding me back now, is the fact that I feel, and say, just what I think about the conduct of the war. Those who are running the Navy do not like criticism from their subordinates no matter how warranted, and I feel that they did not like my lectures at the War College nor my articles written out here in the Pacific on the method of conducting the war in the Pacific. I think that I did myself harm in writing them although every one of them, strange as it may see, has been proven correct. It isn't men of the high caliber of Admiral Nimitz who object. He is an enormously able and broad minded officer who seeks nothing for himself and all for his Nation. It is, on the other hand, those men who have nothing to do with this war excepting to sit on a chair in Washington, who object.

0672

I, very probably, should shut up but I am a BATES and Bates's never shut up. For some reason, all of them are always carrying a torch somewhere. Jocelyn and Edward are typical examples of this. All of us always seem to be fighting somewhere for what we believe to be right. I can frankly say that I would rather go down with my head high and my personal pride secure than to be advanced through "soft soap" and "inability".

I know that you know what I am talking about, because you yourself had to face a most difficult situation. It appeared as if everything possible was being done to keep you down and, yet, you often rose above all of those around you. I learned a great deal from you during my service with you and since, and I hope that the one thing that I learned best of all, was the ability to take political rebuffs with a smile. You did me a great deal of good, as a young officer, and I say here what I said to you in person not long ago "that a large part of what success I have had or may have in the future, I owe to your kind leadership and instruction".

Please remember me most kindly to Mrs. Moses who is a darling person and, as for yourself, always feel that you have my respect and admiration. The Navy always remembers you as, not only a Naval Officer, but as a gentleman of the first order. There aren't many of the latter in the navy today!

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Captain Stanford E. Moses,
2836 Derby Street,
Berkeley, 5, California.

0673

13 May 1945

Dear Mary,

This is a note to say "hello" to you, and, at the same time, to forward you a check covering the charges incurred by me at your club during my stay in Washington, D.C. in February. I am sorry that I appear somewhat slow in paying this but I am so far away and the mail is so slow — that is, ordinary mail — that it is difficult for anyone out here to promptly clear up anything in the States.

I think that one of the nicest things for me in my trip to Washington was to come to your club and see you. You are a very nice person, as well as a capable Secretary of the Club, and I think all of the Club members realize their good fortune in having you with them. I also was pleasantly surprised in seeing Adam. He told me that he only came in and worked at intervals, but I am glad that he came in there when I was there. You both made me think of the old happy days when Mrs. Curtiss and Mrs. Sands held full sway. If you see either of them I hope that you will say "hello" to them for me.

Thanks very much for your kindness to me. Congratulations again upon the high quality of the 1925 F St. Club.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Miss Mary Cummings,
1925 F St. Club,
1925 F Northwest,
Washington, D.C.

0674

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

19 May 1945.

My dear Dr. Shires,

You may have wondered why you received no acknowledgment from me relative to your thoughtfulness in sending me a Christmas card. Your card was dated November 6, 1944 and I received it today, May 19th, 1945. Thus, a period of six months elapsed from the time you sent me this card until I received it. This long delay is due to the fact that the letter was improperly readdressed by Pearl Harbor. Another cause was the fact that it was sent ordinary mail. No mail seems to have any speed in its delivery unless it is Air Mail or V-Mail. The latter is quite fast but one sees very little of it these days, presumably because one can write so little in the small space allotted.

I want you to know that I appreciate the thoughtfulness of yourself and Christ's Episcopal Church in my behalf, and I know that each of us, who claims your church has many times, here at sea and especially when in the presence of the enemy, thought of it and the peace for which it stands and which it always brings. With many thanks to you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

Henry M. Shires, DD.,
Christ's Episcopal Church,
Alameda, California

0675

COMMANDER BATTLESHIP SQUADRON ONE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

19 May 1945.

Dear Admiral Deyo,

I am sending you, under separate cover, some of the pictures incident to your turning over command of TF 54 to Vice Admiral Oldendorf. The pictures are good but not really good enough and this, I think, is due to several facts: (1) The photographer is not properly trained, (2) the pictures are blown up too much. The pictures taken of yourself, of yourself and the Staff, and of myself were very poor, when fully blown up, so they are being redone on a much smaller scale and, possibly, I shall succeed in obtaining some good ones for you.

I was extremely sorry to hear that Lieutenant Page had succumbed to his wounds, as had also Lieutenant (jg) Hawley, who if you will remember, was one of our C.W.O. officers on the Tennessee and was wounded in that suicide plane attack. I had hoped to hear from you concerning Lieutenant Page ere this but, evidently, you are too busy to be able to handle everyone's requests.

I don't know whether you are receiving any of the action reports due you as CTF 54. Commander Battleship Squadron ONE has received some advance copies, and these he is retaining for study. He plans to forward to you those he receives for endorsement and further routing. He does not plan to write any endorsements on any of these action reports as that is a function of command expressly reserved for you. Had I remained here, it had been my plan to write something on each one for your consideration but, as I will soon be detached, and, as Commander Battleship Squadron ONE will soon be busy, he does not think it wise to attempt to have his Staff write endorsements for you. If you disagree in this opinion, I suggest that you write to him and request that those members of his Staff who are somewhat qualified, i.e., the Gunnery Officer and the Aviation Officer, draw up some endorsements for you.

For your information it takes a very long time for these reports to get through, there is little doubt but that you will be receiving them for months. Such a situation is not only deplorable but also disgraceful. For example, we received mail, important mail, yesterday which had been held by one Admiral for four months. He should not have held it more than a matter of days.

Many Commanders merely write "Forwarded" on these reports, but I have never favored this as often some endorsements has caused its writer a great deal of thought and worry, and it does not seem proper to drop such comments without any attention whatsoever. In this connection, I recollect that you said that you planned to put an endorsement on each and every report.

- 1 -

0676

I hear that you and your Staff are hanging out at the submarine recreation center and thoroughly enjoying it. Needless to say, this was good news because if anyone needs a rest at present it is you, and I can say the same for your Staff who worked hard and well through a difficult campaign. With best regards, I am as ever,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. BATES.

Rear Admiral M. L. DEYO,
Commander Cruiser Division THIRTEEN
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San Francisco, California

0677